

Application No. 10/568,329
June 9, 2008
Reply to Office Action of January 8, 2008

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

Claim 1 (Currently amended). A process for the preparation of a recombinant polypeptide, comprising the steps of

- a) fermenting a prokaryotic host cell in a fermentation medium, the host cell comprising a periplasm and being transformed with a recombinant expression system capable of effecting secretion of the polypeptide into the periplasm, wherein the fermentation is performed in ~~[[a]]~~ the fermentation medium under conditions such that the polypeptide is secreted into the periplasm of the host cell, and
- b) interrupting the further processing of the host cell in the fermentation medium ~~harvest broth~~ and maintaining the medium ~~[[it]]~~ under defined conditions of temperature and pH prior to extraction of the polypeptide.

Claim 2 (Canceled).

Claim 3 (Currently amended). A process according to claim 1, wherein the further processing of the fermentation medium ~~harvest broth~~ is interrupted for ~~a period of~~ from about one hour to about 72 hours.

Claim 4 (Currently amended). A process according to claim 1, wherein the further processing of the fermentation medium ~~harvest broth~~ is interrupted for ~~a period of~~ from about 12 hours to about 48 hours.

Claim 5 (Currently amended). A process according to claim 1, wherein the further

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processing of the fermentation medium harvest broth is interrupted for a period of from about 12 hours[[,]] to about 24 hours ~~or about 48 hours~~.

Claim 6 (Currently amended). A process according to claim 1, wherein the interruption of the further processing of the fermentation medium harvest broth is performed at a temperature of from about 2°C to about 65°C.

Claim 7 (Currently amended). A process according to claim 1, wherein the interruption of the further processing of the fermentation medium harvest broth is performed at a temperature of from about 4°C to about 25°C.

Claim 8 (Currently amended). A process according to claim 1, wherein the interruption of the further processing of the fermentation medium harvest broth is performed at a temperature of ~~about 4°C~~, from about 10°C, ~~about 15°C~~, ~~about 20°C~~ or to about 25°C.

Claim 9 (Currently amended). A process according to claim 1, wherein the pH ~~value~~ of the fermentation medium harvest broth is maintained ~~between~~ at a pH of from about 4 to about 10 during step b).

Claim 10 (Currently amended). A process according to claim 1, wherein the pH ~~value~~ of the fermentation medium harvest broth is maintained ~~between~~ at a pH of from about 5 to about 9 during step b).

Claim 11 (Currently amended). A process according to claim 1, wherein the pH ~~value~~ of the fermentation medium harvest broth is maintained ~~between~~ at a pH of from about 6 to about 8 during step b).

Claim 12 (Currently amended). A process according to claim 1, wherein the pH ~~value~~ of

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the fermentation medium harvest broth is maintained at about 7 during step b).

Claim 13 (Currently amended). A process according to claim 1, wherein the further processing of the fermentation medium harvest broth is interrupted for a period of from about 12 hours, ~~about 24 hours or to~~ about 48 hours and at a temperature of from about 4°C, ~~about 10°C, about 15°C, about 20°C or to~~ about 25°C.

Claim 14 (Previously presented). A process according to claim 1, wherein the fermentation medium harvest broth is concentrated prior to step b).

Claim 15 (Previously presented). A process according to claim 1, wherein the fermentation medium harvest broth is concentrated by centrifugation or micro filtration prior to step b).

Claim 16 (Currently amended). A process according to claim 1, wherein step b) is performed in [[the]] a fermenter.

Claim 17 (Currently amended). A process according to claim 1, wherein the prokaryotic host cell [[is]] comprises a Gram-negative bacterium.

Claim 18 (Original). A process according to claim 17, wherein the Gram-negative bacterium is selected from the group consisting of *Escherichia sp.*, *Pseudomonas sp.*, *Enterobacter sp.*, *Erwinia sp.*, *Campylobacter sp.*, *Proteus sp.*, *Aeromonas sp.* and *Vitreoscilla sp.*

Claim 19 (Currently amended). A process according to claim 17, wherein the Gram-negative bacterium [[is]] comprises *Escherichia coli*.

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Claim 20 (Currently amended). A process according to claim 1, wherein the recombinant polypeptide is selected from the group consisting of an antibody, a hormone [[or]], and an immunomodulating agent.

Claim 21 (Currently amended). A process according to claim 1, wherein the recombinant polypeptide is selected from the group consisting of a growth hormone, a growth factor, an interferon, a cytokine, an enzyme, an enzyme inhibitor [[or]], and an antibody fragment.

Claim 22 (Currently amended). A process according to claim 1, wherein the recombinant polypeptide is selected from the group consisting of a Fab-fragment, human growth hormone, interferon alpha-2b [[or]], and granulocyte colony-stimulating factor.

Claim 23 (Canceled).